



I-15 bridge construction like a dance

Genelle Pugmire - Daily Herald | Posted: Monday, June 21, 2010 8:12 am

Dal Hawks is hoping the demolition and rebuilding of the 63 bridges his crews have to complete along the 24-mile Interstate 15 Core Project will run sort of like a waltz, smooth and flowing, with a few twirls and dips, instead of "the jerk," "twist," or "mashed potato."

Hawks, the director of the Core project for the Utah Department of Transportation, has been preparing for this project since 2004. Now its time for the show to start.

"Part of doing a big project like this is getting a partnership with the public," he said.

That partnership includes helping drivers stay informed, stay driving and stay safe. If all of those factors come together then it will be a waltz. However, the public must buy off on what is happening in their neighborhood and they must see the needed improvements to be a good partner. Part of those improvements include the demolition and rebuild of 63 bridges. That means loud noises, road closures and detours. Over the next two years those bridges will all have a level of work done on them with most of them being completely redone. Most of the bridges were built in the 1960s when UDOT first built I-15 and are deteriorating, corroded and seismically unsound.

"This will be a great project. This road network is the lifeblood of the state," Hawks said. "It's a great opportunity to get in and expand to keep the economic lifeline going."

Hawks wants to make sure that individuals know a few things; first construction will be on one bridge at a time, onramps will be closed only 60 days, with no bridge out of service for more than 180 days.

To keep the I-15 lifeline moving in the future, it will be necessary to widen the freeway now. The old bridges are too narrow as well.

"Besides widening, the new bridges will be less subject to corrosion and will service the public longer," Hawks said.

Of interest to the community is the number of ways the bridges will be constructed. In at least three locations; Sam White Lane and Proctor Lane in Pleasant Grove, and 200 S. in Lindon; the new bridges will be built off to the side of the road similar to the American Fork Main Street bridge. These building areas are affectionately called "bridge farms."

With a sense of humor, Hawks said "Yep, we plant the green rebar and a bridge grows."

That's not exactly what happens, but there is a lot of green rebar. The green is an epoxy that extends the life of the rebar and prevents corrosion. Drivers will be seeing a lot of rebar sticking out of bridges for the next while. Many of the bridges will be built in parallel segments according to UDOT spokeswoman Heather Barnum.

While half of the bridge is being worked on, the other half is being used for traffic. Concrete barriers will keep drivers from the construction side.

"This keeps the bridge open while we work to the side," Barnum said. "We will be building temporary bridges as well."

While the word "temporary" may sound unsafe or flimsy, Barnum reassures residents the temporary bridges have a 10-year life to them and are safe for traveling on.

"The temporary bridges in a lot of cases are stronger than what is currently there," Barnum said.

The new bridges will last through 2030 and beyond. "Think of how far we've come in technologies since we did the Salt Lake construction for the 2002 Olympics," Barnum said. "It took four and a half years for the Salt Lake City project to be complete. We are doing seven more miles and it will be done in two and a half years. We will benefit from the technology they learned."

Technology and smooth waltz-like construction is what keeps people moving during construction, Barnum added.

Listed to the right are some of the bridges and their rebuild timeline to help residents understand how and when their areas will be affected.

Bridge Location	Construction schedule
Lehi Main Street	Summer '10 - Summer '11
200 South/300 West A.F.	Outside lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, Inside Summer of '11 - Summer '12
American Fork River	Outside lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, Inside Summer of '11 - Summer '12
100 East American Fork	Outside lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, Inside Summer of '11 - Summer '12
500 East American Fork	Summer '10 - Spring '11
Sam White Lane	ABC - Move bridge in Winter '10
Proctor Lane	ABC - Move bridge in Winter '10
200 South Lindon	ABC - Move bridge in Winter '10

Geneva Road	Outside lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, Inside Summer of '11 - Summer '12
1600 North Orem	Outside lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, Inside Summer of '11 - Summer '12
800 North Orem	Outside lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, Inside Summer of '11 - Summer '12
400 North Orem	Outside lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, Inside Summer of '11 - Summer '12
Orem Center Street	Outside lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, Inside Summer of '11 - Summer '12
400 South Orem	Outside lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, Inside Summer of '11 - Summer '12
UVU Pedestrian Tunnels	Summer - Fall '11
2000 South Orem	NB lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, SB lanes Summer '11 - Summer '12
UPRR Provo	NB lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, SB lanes Summer '11 - Summer '12
UTA Front Runner	NB lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, SB lanes Summer '11 - Summer '12
820 North Provo	NB lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, SB lanes Summer '11 - Summer '12
Provo River and Trail	NB lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, SB lanes Summer '11 - Summer '12
Provo Center Street	Schedule being modified due to recent design change
600 South Provo	SB lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, NB lanes Summer '11 - Summer '12
920 South Provo	SB lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, NB lanes Summer '11 - Summer '12
500 West Provo	SB lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, NB lanes Summer '11 - Summer '12
2700 North Spanish Fork	Summer '10 - Winter '10
US-6	Summer '10 - Summer '11
Spanish Fork Main Street	NB lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, SB lanes Summer '11 - Summer '12
300 West Spanish Fork	NB lanes Summer '10 - Summer '11, SB lanes Summer '11 - Summer '12
RR X NB (Sugar Spur) S.F.	Summer '10 - Summer '11
6800 South Spanish Fork	Summer '10 - Summer '11

** Schedule subject to change. Visit udot.utah.gov/i15core for the latest construction information and to sign up for weekly updates.*